

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Restriction/Election

The Office considered the claims of the present application to be directed to three patentably distinct inventions. Specifically, the Examiner required election of a single invention, wherein the first invention is drawn to a method of treating a solution (Group I, claims 1-15), the second invention is drawn to an apparatus (Group II, claims 16-20), and the third invention is drawn to a method of treating a solution with a step of treating gas (Group III, claim 21).

The applicant respectfully disagrees. Nevertheless, the applicant **elects without traverse Group I**, reading on **claims 1-15**. Claims 16-21 were withdrawn without prejudice.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application, with claims 16-21 being withdrawn. The applicant requests allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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